

**ABSTRACT**

Disclosed is a three-cable communication network that terminates at four separate landing sites on two separate landmasses, the network carrying four grades of traffic, with the lowest grade of traffic being preempted upon failure. Switching elements that terminate the cables at each landing site and switching logic by which the various grades of traffic are routed in response to failure scenarios, is also disclosed. Also set forth is a method of installing the aforementioned three-cable communication network that includes the steps of laying a first cable of bandwidth X between a landing site on each landmass, then laying a second cable, also of bandwidth X, between two other landing sites on each landmass. A third joined cable of at least bandwidth 2X having four ends is then laid between the sites on the two landmasses with one end connecting to each landing site, and connecting at least bandwidth X to each landing site.